

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ABIDJA 05426 071735Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00
SS-15 PM-05 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 L-03
/071 W

-----098846 071740Z /46

O 071720Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9070

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAKAR IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LOME IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR VAINGEN IMMEDIATE

JCS WASHDC IMMEDIATE

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CINCMAC SCOTT AFB IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T ABIDJAN 5426

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, CG

SUBJECT: AFRICAN AIRLIFT

REF: (A) SECSTATE 143838; (B) SECSTATE 139907 OF JUNE 2;
(C) 21AF MC GUIRE AFB NJ DTG 062203Z JUN 78

1. IT SEEMS TO ME EXTREMELY LATE IN THE DAY TO
BE RAISING QUESTIONS ABOUT WHO WILL AIRLIFT
IVORIANS AND OTHER AFRICAN PERSONNEL TO ZAIRE.
AT DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTION (REFTEL B) I HAVE
SOLICITED REQUEST AT MOST SENIOR LEVELS OF THE
IVORIAN GOVERNMENT FOR US LOGISTIC SUPPORT FOR
THEIR MEDICAL CONTINGENT, HAVE ADVISED THEM
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THAT SUPPORT WILL BE FORTHCOMING AND IN PAST
FOUR DAYS HAVE REMAINED IN ALMOST CONTINUAL
TOUCH WITH IVORIAN MINISTER AKE, AS WELL AS WITH
FRENCH EMBASSY ABIDJAN, TO ASSURE EFFECTIVE
COORDINATION OF PICKUP. AS I DICTATE THIS MESSAGE
IVORIAN MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE
ARE OPERATING ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT US AF C41S

WILL BE ARRIVING IN ABIDJAN AT 2025 HOURS THIS EVENING (REFTEL C) TO TRANSPORT THE IVORIANS TO ZAIRE. IVORIAN FORCE OF 105 PERSONNEL PLUS EQUIPMENT AND MEDICINE WILL BE MOVING OUT TO POSITION THEMSELVES AT PORT-BOUET AIRPORT WITHIN THE NEXT FEW HOURS.

2. NOW WE LEARN (REFTEL A) THAT THERE IS A BASIC QUESTION WHETHER US WILL SUPPLY AIRLIFT AT ALL. THESE QUESTIONS SHOULD HAVE BEEN RESOLVED BEFORE THIS OPERATION WAS UNDERTAKEN AND BEFORE I WAS INSTRUCTED TO SOLICIT IVORIAN REQUEST. I STRONGLY URGE THAT US AIRLIFT GO FORWARD AS SCHEDULED (REFTEL C). WE CANNOT RPT NOT AT THIS TIME ADVISE IVORIANS THAT WE HAVE CHANGED OUR MINDS WITHOUT DOING REAL DAMAGE TO OUR RELATIONS WITH THEM AND LEAVING THEM WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT WE HAVE, FOR REASONS UNKNOWN TO THEM, WITHDRAWN AN OFFER TO HELP THEM WHICH THEY ACCEPTED IN GOOD FAITH.
STEARNS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY AIRLIFTS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ABIDJA05426
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780238-0226
Format: TEL
From: ABIDJAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780689/aaaacxwu.tel
Line Count: 82
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ea535e90-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 143838, 78 STATE 139907
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2463022
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AFRICAN AIRLIFT
TAGS: MOPS, CG
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ea535e90-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014